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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

United States Patent and Trademark
Office
(Box PCT)
Crystal Plaza 2
Washington, DC 20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 07 January 1997 (07.01.97)	
International application No. PCT/GB96/01124	Applicant's or agent's file reference BR/FAS/P01PCT
International filing date (day/month/year) 10 May 1996 (10.05.96)	Priority date (day/month/year) 11 May 1995 (11.05.95)
Applicant SCHOFIELD, Frederick, Andrew	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

06 December 1996 (06.12.96)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

H. Zhou

Telephone No.: (41-22) 730.91.11

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 03 SEP. 1997

WIPO PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference BR/FAS/P01PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB96/01124	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/05/1996	Priority date (day/month/year) 11/05/1995
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC E04D13/15		
Applicant SCHOFIELD, Frederick Andrew		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 06/12/1996	Date of completion of this report 01.09.97
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. (+49-89) 2399-0, Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: (+49-89) 2399-4465	Authorized officer Cleuziou, Y Telephone No. (+49-89) 2399-2492 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB96/01124

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-6 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-17 with telefax of 15/08/1997

Drawings, sheets:

1/7-7/7 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB96/01124

II. Priority

1. ☐ This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:

- ☐ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.
- ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed.

2. ☐ This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid.

Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
- ☒ claims Nos. 12,13,15,16.

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
- ☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 12, 13, 15, 16 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
cf. Separate Sheet, point 4
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB96/01124

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims..
- ☐ paid additional fees.
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
- ☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
- ☐ not complied with for the following reasons:

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- ☐ all parts.
- ☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. .

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-11,14,17
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-11,14,17
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-11,14,17
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

cf. Separate Sheet, points 1-3

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB96/01124

VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

cf. Separate Sheet, points 7-9

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

cf. Separate Sheet, points 5-6

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB96/01124

1. Document FR-A-2 654 137 (D1), which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (cf. the whole document and in particular the abstract, page 1, line 3 to page 2, line 20; page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 1-14; figures 1-2) a building component for use in constructing a roof supported by the upper part of a wall of a building, said building component comprising a block unit having a capping portion, an outer overhang portion extending, downwardly at right angles to the capping portion, and having an outer face serving as a barge/fascia board, an under face serving as a soffit and an inner face, the capping portion being shaped with a flat top face and a flat under face which is parallel to the flat top face and which projects from the inner face of the overhang portion, the shape of the capping portion enabling it to be positioned over the upper part of the wall with the overhang portion projecting outwardly beyond the outer face of the wall and the inner face of the overhang portion lying against the outer face of the wall.

Document D1 does not disclosed all the features of claim 1. Consequently the subject matter of claim 1 is novel.

2. The building component according to D1 has no leg portion as described in claim 1 and therefore cannot straddle the wall.

The addition of such a leg portion is not described or suggested in the cited prior art and the subject matter of claim 1 is inventive.

3. In claims 2-11, 14, 17 slight constructional changes in the building component of claim 1 and its use are suggested. Claims 2-11 are dependent claims of claim 1 and claims 14, 17 are use claims for the building component according to claim 1. Consequently these claims are also novel and inventive.
4. Claims 12, 13, 15, 16 should not have relied on references to the description or drawings (Rule 6.2(a) PCT).
5. The two last lines of claim 1 appears to be ambiguous and not clear.
6. Independent claim 1 is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from document D1 (cf. point 1 of the communication) being placed in a preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in a characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB96/01124

7. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.
8. The general statement in the description on page 6, last paragraph, implies that the subject-matter for which protection is sought may be different to that defined by the claims, thereby resulting in lack of clarity (Article 6 PCT) when used to interpret them (see also the PCT Guidelines, PCT/GL/3 III, 4.3a). This statement should have been deleted.
9. The description and the drawings are not in conformity with the claims as required by Rule 5.1(a)(iii) PCT. Claim 1 is limited to the second embodiment of the invention and consequently all the features of the description relating to the first embodiment and the drawing pages 2/7, 4/7, 5/7 should have been deleted.

- 1 -

CLAIMS

1. A building component for use in constructing a roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins, said building component comprising a block unit (8') having an intermediate capping portion (10'),
5 an outer overhang portion (12) extending downwardly at right angles to the capping portion (10') and an inner leg portion (9) extending downwardly at right angles to the capping portion (10'), the overhang portion having an outer face serving as a barge/fascia board (14A), an under face serving as a soffit (14B) and an inner face, the
10 capping portion (10') being shaped with a flat top face extending from its inner edge to its outer edge and a flat under face which is parallel to the flat top face and which extends from the inner face of the overhang portion (12) to an oppositely facing outer face of the inner leg portion (9), the shape of the capping portion (10') enabling it to be positioned over, and straddle, the outer skin of a double-skinned wall (17) with the outer
15 overhang portion (12) projecting outwardly beyond the outer skin and the inner face of the overhang portion (12) lying opposite the outside of the outer skin.
2. A building component as claimed in claim 1 and including a batt of insulation material (28) secured to an inner end of the block unit (8').
3. A building component as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner end of the capping portion (10') is rebated to accommodate a heat insulation batt (28) such that the capping
5 portion (10') and leg portion (9) have, at their inner end, said insulation batt (28) to abut or nearly abut the outside of the inner skin of the double-skinned wall (17).
4. A building component as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein a marked or recessed panel 26 is provided in the flat top face, and above the flat under face, of the capping portion (10').
- 10 5. A building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the under face of the overhang portion (12) serving as a soffit (14A) has an outer edge and wherein a drip channel (24) is provided in the under face of the overhang portion (12) adjacent to

- 2 -

its said outer edge.

6. A building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the capping portion (10') is of equal weight to, or heavier than, the overhang portion (12) to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit (8') when laid on the outer skin of a double skinned wall (17), said overhang portion (12) being hollow, or having multi-cavities therein or being cellular.
7. A building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the block unit (8') is made of any durable material.
8. A building component as claimed in claim 7, wherein the durable material is a cementitious material.
9. A building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the capping portion (10') is of equal weight to, or heavier than, the overhang portion (12) to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit (8') when laid on the outer skin of a double skinned wall (17), and wherein the block unit (8') is cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in respect of the capping portion (10') and the other containing a lightweight aggregate in respect of the overhang portion (12) which is solid.
10. A building component as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein the block unit (8') is moulded in a manner in which the overhang under face serving as a soffit (14B) and/or overhang outer face serving as a fascia/barge board (14A) is/are provided with a wood grain or other ornamental effect.
11. A building component as claimed in claim 7 to 10, wherein the cementitious material has a mat or fibre reinforcement of synthetic material.
12. A building component for use in constructing a roof of a building having a double skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins, substantially as

- 3 -

hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 5A and 5B of the accompanying drawings.

13. A building component for use in constructing a roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins, substantially as
5 hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 6A and 6B of the accompanying drawings.

14. A roof of a building having a double-skinned wall (17) provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins and comprising a building component as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the block unit (8') is laid in side-by-side relationship with
10 others of its kind as a course at the top of the wall (17).

15. A roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between its inner and outer skins, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Fig. 2A of the accompanying drawings.

16. A roof of a building having a double-skinned wall provided with a cavity between
15 its inner and outer skins, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Fig. 2B of the accompanying drawings.

17. A building component as claimed in Claim 1 when used on a single-skinned wall.

CLAIMS

1. A building component comprising a block unit having a capping portion and an overhang portion, the outer face of the overhang portion being to serve
5 as a barge/fascia board.
2. A building component as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the lower face of the overhang portion serves as a soffit.
- 10 3. A building component as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein a block unit is for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a wall.
4. A building component as claimed in Claim 3, wherein, a multi-block unit
15 is provided of desired length for use with others of its kind.
5. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 4, wherein the capping portion of the block unit is of tile shape to be positioned over a double-skinned wall.
20
6. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 4, wherein the capping portion of the block unit is shaped to be positioned over and straddle the outer skin of the wall.
- 25 7. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 6, wherein the overhang portion projects outwardly beyond the wall.

Replare by 4434

8. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 7, wherein the capping portion is of equal weight to or heavier than the overhang portion to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit when laid on a wall or the outer skin thereof.

5

9. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 8, wherein the block unit is made of any durable material, for example cementitious material.

10. A building component as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the overhang portion is hollow, or has multi-cavities therein, or is cellular.

11. A building component as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the block unit is cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in respect of the capping portion, and the other containing a light-weight aggregate in respect of the overhang portion which is solid.

12. A building component as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the block unit is moulded in a manner in which the under faces and/or outer face are provided with a wood grain or other ornamental/decorative effect.

13. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 12, wherein a drip channel is provided adjacent to the outer edge of the soffit face of block unit.

25

14. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 13, wherein a marked or recessed panel 26 is provided in the top face of the capping portion.
- 5 15. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 9 to 14, wherein the cementitious material has a mat or fibre reinforcement of synthetic material.
- 10 16. A building component substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 2A and 2B, and Figs. 3A and 3B, or Figs. 4A and 4B, or Figs. 5A and 5B, or Figs. 6A and 6B of the accompanying drawings.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference BR/FAS/P01PCT	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;"> FOR FURTHER ACTION </div> <div style="width: 60%;"> <small>see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.</small> </div> </div>	
International application No. PCT/GB96/01124	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/05/96	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 11/05/95
Applicant SCHOFIELD, Frederick Andrew		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box I).

2. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box II).

3. ☐ The international application contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing and the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing

☐ filed with the international application.
☐ furnished by the applicant separately from the international application,

☐ but not accompanied by a statement to the effect that it did not include matter going beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed.

☐ Transcribed by this Authority

4. With regard to the title, ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is:
 Figure No. 4A ☒ as suggested by the applicant. ☐ None of the figures.
☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

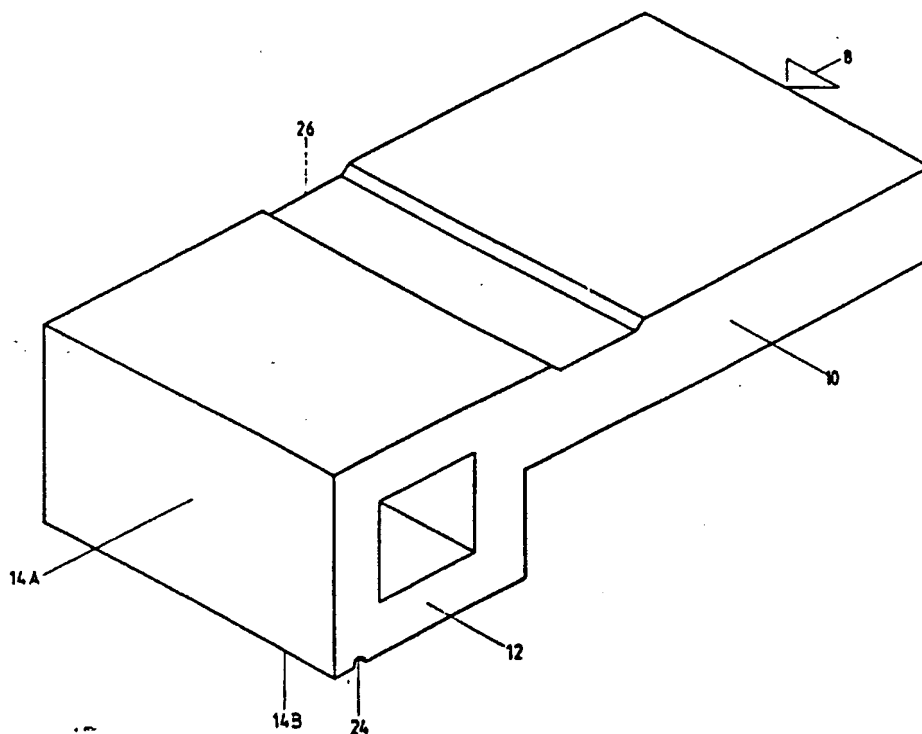
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : E04D 13/15	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/35848 (43) International Publication Date: 14 November 1996 (14.11.96)						
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/01124</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 10 May 1996 (10.05.96)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data:</p> <table border="0"><tr><td>9509530.3</td><td>11 May 1995 (11.05.95)</td><td>GB</td></tr><tr><td>9600197.9</td><td>5 January 1996 (05.01.96)</td><td>GB</td></tr></table> <p>(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: SCHOFIELD, Frederick, Andrew [GB/GB]; 3 Crawfordsburn Way, Newtownards, County Down BT23 4RY (GB).</p> <p>(74) Agent: ROBERTSON, Robert, Bruce, Spence; 240 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3EU (GB).</p>		9509530.3	11 May 1995 (11.05.95)	GB	9600197.9	5 January 1996 (05.01.96)	GB	<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>
9509530.3	11 May 1995 (11.05.95)	GB						
9600197.9	5 January 1996 (05.01.96)	GB						

(54) Title: BUILDING COMPONENT

(57) Abstract

A building component comprises a block unit (8, 8') having a capping portion (10, 10'') and an overhang portion (12) with the outer face of which serving as a barge/fascia board (14A). A lower face of the overhang portion serves as a soffit. The block unit is for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a gable wall (16) or front/rear wall (17).





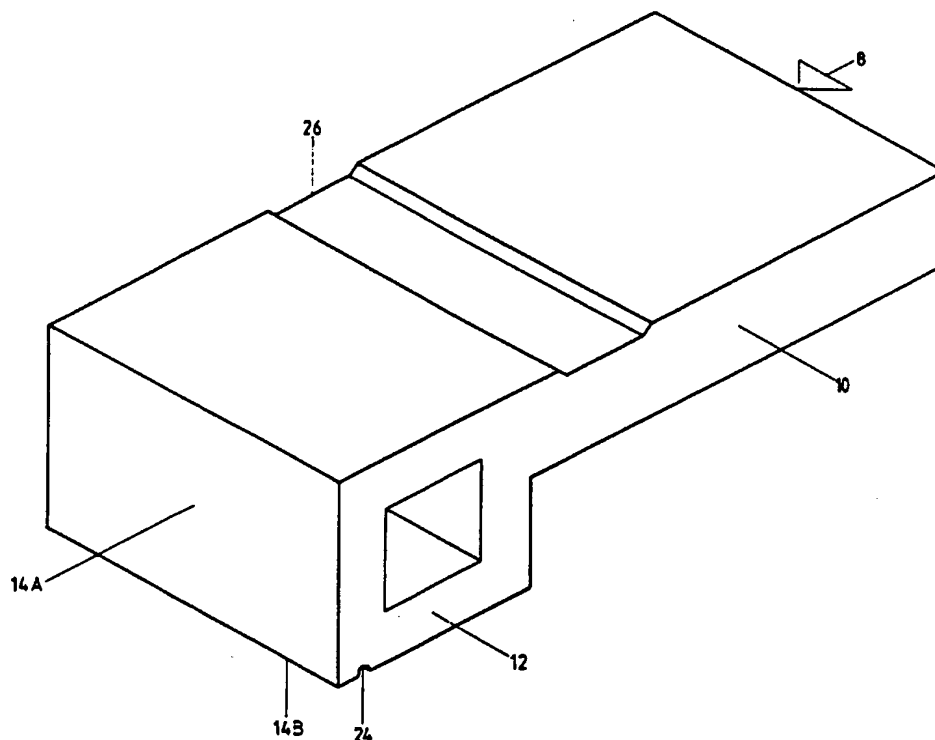
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification n ^o : E04D 13/15		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/35848
			(43) International Publication Date: 14 November 1996 (14.11.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/01124		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 10 May 1996 (10.05.96)			
(30) Priority Data: 9509530.3 ✓ 11 May 1995 (11.05.95) GB 9600197.9 ✓ 5 January 1996 (05.01.96) GB			
(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: SCHOFIELD, Frederick, Andrew [GB/GB]; 3 Crawfordsburn Way, Newtownards, County Down BT23 4RY (GB).			
(74) Agent: ROBERTSON, Robert, Bruce, Spence; 240 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3EU (GB).		Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: BUILDING COMPONENT

(57) Abstract

A building component comprises a block unit (8, 8') having a capping portion (10, 10'') and an overhang portion (12) with the outer face of which serving as a barge/fascia board (14A). A lower face of the overhang portion serves as a soffit. The block unit is for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a gable wall (16) or front/rear wall (17).



BUILDING COMPONENT

This invention relates to a building component for use in constructing a roof for a building primarily, but not only, a building constructed having a "double skin" outer wall(s) particularly, but not necessarily, having a cavity between said skins, the cavity normally being filled or substantially so with an insulation material. A requirement of building regulations currently in force is the capping or closing-off of the top of such cavity. This capping operation is normally achieved by fabrication on site using a board of natural or synthetic material in the same, a preceding or a succeeding operation including a gable wall overhang, a barge board and a soffit. While this invention is primarily concerned with the provision of gable wall overhangs, barge boards and soffits, it is also applicable to the provision of front/rear wall overhangs, fascia boards and soffits. Heretofore, overhangs have been constructed of timber as have barge boards and soffits which require regular painting maintenance with both barge boards and soffits being susceptible to rot and decay and requiring periodic replacement. Barge boards and soffits have also been provided of synthetic plastics material. While these are beneficial in requiring little maintenance they tend to degrade when exposed to sunlight, due to ultra violet radiation and thermal stresses. These existing building components are disadvantageous and an object of the present invention is to obviate or mitigate these disadvantages.

Accordingly, the present invention is a building component comprising a block unit having a capping portion and an overhang portion, the outer face of

the overhang portion being to serve as a barge/fascia board. A lower face of the overhang portion beneficially serves as a soffit.

The block unit is desirably for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a wall. Alternatively, a multi-block unit may be provided of desired length for use with others of its kind. The capping portion of the block unit is of tile shape, in a first embodiment, to be positioned over a double-skinned wall and, in a second embodiment, is shaped to be positioned over and straddle the outer skin of the wall. In both embodiments, the overhang portion projects outwardly beyond the wall.

The capping portion is preferably of equal weight to or heavier than the overhang portion to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit when laid on a wall or the outer skin thereof.

Preferably, the block unit is made of any durable material, for example cementitious material. The overhang portion is beneficially hollow or may have multi-cavities therein, or may be cellular. The block unit may alternatively be cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in respect of the capping portion, and the other containing a light-weight aggregate in respect of the overhang portion which is solid.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a part of a top and one gable of a building showing a roof support structure with a gable overhang, a barge board and a soffit constructed conventionally;

Fig. 2A is a perspective view of a part of a top and one end of a building showing a roof support structure with a course of block units according to a first embodiment of the present invention; overlying the top of a gable wall;

Fig. 2B is a perspective view of a part of a top and one end of a building showing a roof support structure with a course of block units according to a second embodiment, overlying both the top of a gable wall and a front wall;

Figs. 3A and 3B are similar perspective views of a block unit according to a first embodiment showing different shaped hollow configurations provided in an overhang portion thereof;

Figs. 4A and 4B are respectively, a perspective view and a side elevational view of a modified block unit according to the first embodiment;

Figs. 5A and 5B are respectively, a perspective view and a side elevational view of a block unit according to a second embodiment; and

Figs. 6A and 6B are respectively, a perspective view and a side elevational view of a modified block unit according to a second embodiment having a batt of insulation material secured to the inner end of the block unit.

Referring to the drawings, a building component comprises a block unit 8, 8' having a capping portion 10 /10' and an overhang portion 12 with the outer face of portion 12 serving as a barge or fascia board 14A and a lower face as a soffit 14B.

The block unit 8, 8' is for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a double-skinned wall 16 with the capping portion 10 thereon and the overhang portion 12 projecting outwardly beyond the outer skin of the wall 16.

The capping portion 10 is of equal weight to or heavier than the overhang portion 12 to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit 8, 8' when laid on a gable wall 16.

The block unit 8, 8' is made of any durable material, for example cementitious material, and can be coloured to suit a particular colour scheme for the rest of the normally painted or coloured parts of a building, for example

window frames, guttering or doors. The overhang portion 12 is hollow as shown in Figs. 3A or 3B, 4A or 4B, 5A or 5B, 6A or 6B with a cylindrical tubular formed passage as shown in Fig. 3A or square tubular formed passage as shown in Figs. 3B, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B. Corner or end block units 18
5 are provided to terminate a course of block units 8, 8' as shown in Figs. 2A and 2B laid on top of the gable wall or front wall 17 in the same manner as conventional bricks or blocks are laid using mortar. An apex 20 may be formed by providing mitre sides to the block units 8, 8' to be abutting at the vertex of the wall. The top surfaces of the block units 8, 8' are flush with the top surfaces
10 of a series of rafters 22 on the gable wall which rafters 22 together provide a roof support structure for a tiled or slated roof including battens and felt/underlay covering.

The outer face of the overhang portions 12 when being moulded may be provided with a wood grain or other ornamental/decorative effect.

15 A gable overhang and barge board when formed in the manner described above is beneficial over the existing provision for such and requires little or no maintenance.

In a first embodiment, the capping portion 10 of the block unit 8 overlies both skins and closes off the cavity between both skins in the gable wall 16.

20 In a second embodiment, the capping portion 10' of the block unit 8' overlies horizontally the outer skin of any outer wall and terminates with a downwardly extending leg portion 9 at right angles thereto, the capping portion 10' straddling the outer skin with leg portion 9 closing off the top of the cavity between the double skins of the wall.

25 Although the invention has been described in connection with pitched gable walls, the building component can equally be used with gable walls 16 of

flat-roofed structures and with front and rear walls 17 of pitched gable or flat-roofed structures.

As shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, the modified block unit of the first embodiment is provided with a drip channel 24 adjacent to the outer edge of soffit 14B, and a marked or recessed panel 26 is provided in the top face of the capping portion 10 as an indicator for the positioning of a restraining element in the form of a wooden batten (not shown) or the like forming part of a roof structure.

As shown in Figs 5A and 5B, 6A and 6B, the block unit and modified block unit of the second embodiment is provided with a drip channel 24 adjacent to the outer edge of soffit 14B, and a marked or recessed panel 26 is provided in the top face of the capping portion 10 as an indicator for the positioning of a restraining element in the form of a wooden batten (not shown) or the like forming part of a roof structure. The panel 26 when in a recessed form can have a secondary use as a collector of any rain or other water which penetrates between the roof structure and block units.

In a modification of the first embodiment, a multi-block unit is provided of a desired length equal to and to locate between a formed apex unit and a corner or end block unit in each gable wall. Such length units may also be used in multiples along front or rear walls between corner or end block units.

In the manufacture of the block units, the cementitious mixtures can have a mat or fibre reinforcement of synthetic material.

In a first modification of both embodiments, the overhang portion is provided with multi-cavities/passages, normally axially parallel to each other, or is of a cellular structure.

In a second modification of both embodiments, the block unit may be cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in

respect of the capping portion and the other containing a light-weight aggregate, for example pumice, perlite (RTM) or expanded polystyrene, in respect of the overhang portion.

In a modification of the second embodiment as shown in Figs. 6A and 5 6B, the inner end of the capping portion of the block unit is rebated to accommodate a heat insulation batt 28, namely the capping portion 10' and leg portion 9 have at their inner end a heat insulation batt 28 to abut or nearly abut against the outside of the inner skin of the wall.

Variations and other modifications can be made without departing from 10 the scope of the invention described above and as claimed hereinafter.

CLAIMS

1. A building component comprising a block unit having a capping portion and an overhang portion, the outer face of the overhang portion being to serve
5 as a barge/fascia board.
2. A building component as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the lower face of the overhang portion serves as a soffit.
- 10 3. A building component as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein a block unit is for use with others of its kind in being laid side-by-side as a course on top of a wall.
4. A building component as claimed in Claim 3, wherein, a multi-block unit
15 is provided of desired length for use with others of its kind.
5. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 4, wherein the capping portion of the block unit is of tile shape to be positioned over a double-skinned wall.
20
6. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 4, wherein the capping portion of the block unit is shaped to be positioned over and straddle the outer skin of the wall.
- 25 7. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 6, wherein the overhang portion projects outwardly beyond the wall.

8. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 7, wherein the capping portion is of equal weight to or heavier than the overhang portion to counterbalance or overbalance inwardly the block unit when laid on a wall or the outer skin thereof.

5

9. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 8, wherein the block unit is made of any durable material, for example cementitious material.

10 10. A building component as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the overhang portion is hollow, or has multi-cavities therein, or is cellular.

11. A building component as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the block unit is cast from two cementitious mixtures, one containing a stone aggregate in respect of the capping portion, and the other containing a light-weight aggregate in respect of the overhang portion which is solid.

15

12. A building component as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the block unit is moulded in a manner in which the under faces and/or outer face are provided with a wood grain or other ornamental/decorative effect.

20

13. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 12, wherein a drip channel is provided adjacent to the outer edge of the soffit face of block unit.

25

14. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 1 to 13, wherein a marked or recessed panel 26 is provided in the top face of the capping portion.

5 15. A building component as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims 9 to 14, wherein the cementitious material has a mat or fibre reinforcement of synthetic material.

10 16. A building component substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figs. 2A and 2B, and Figs. 3A and 3B, or Figs. 4A and 4B, or Figs. 5A and 5B, or Figs. 6A and 6B of the accompanying drawings.

1/7

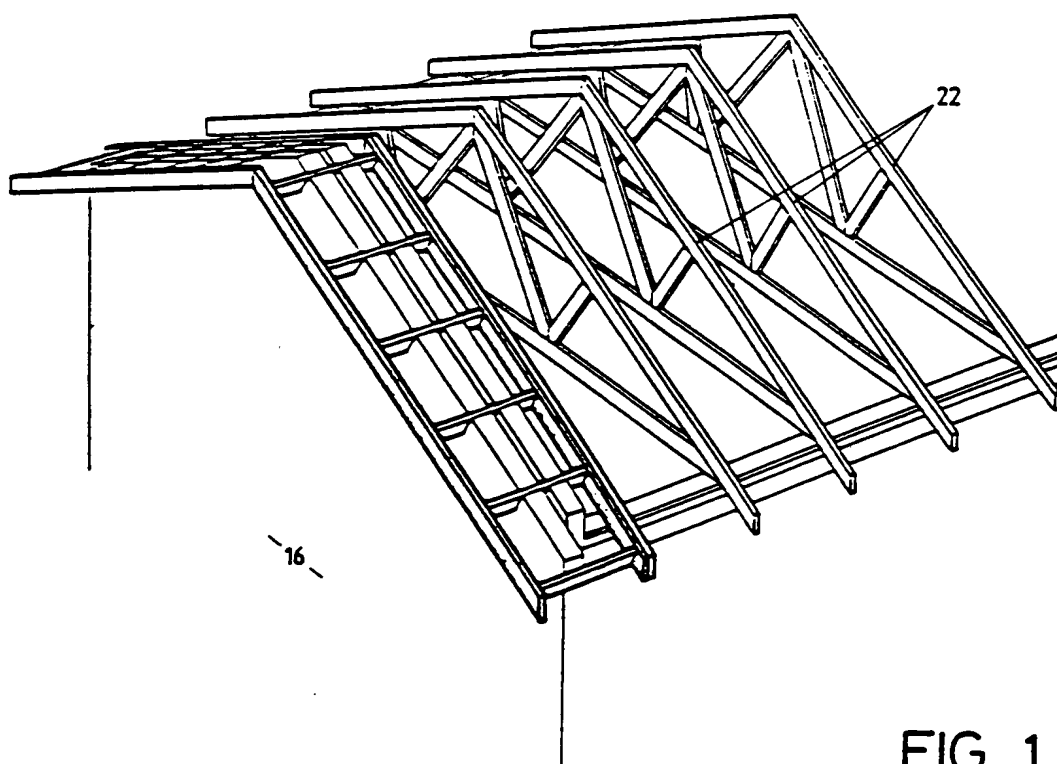


FIG. 1

2/7

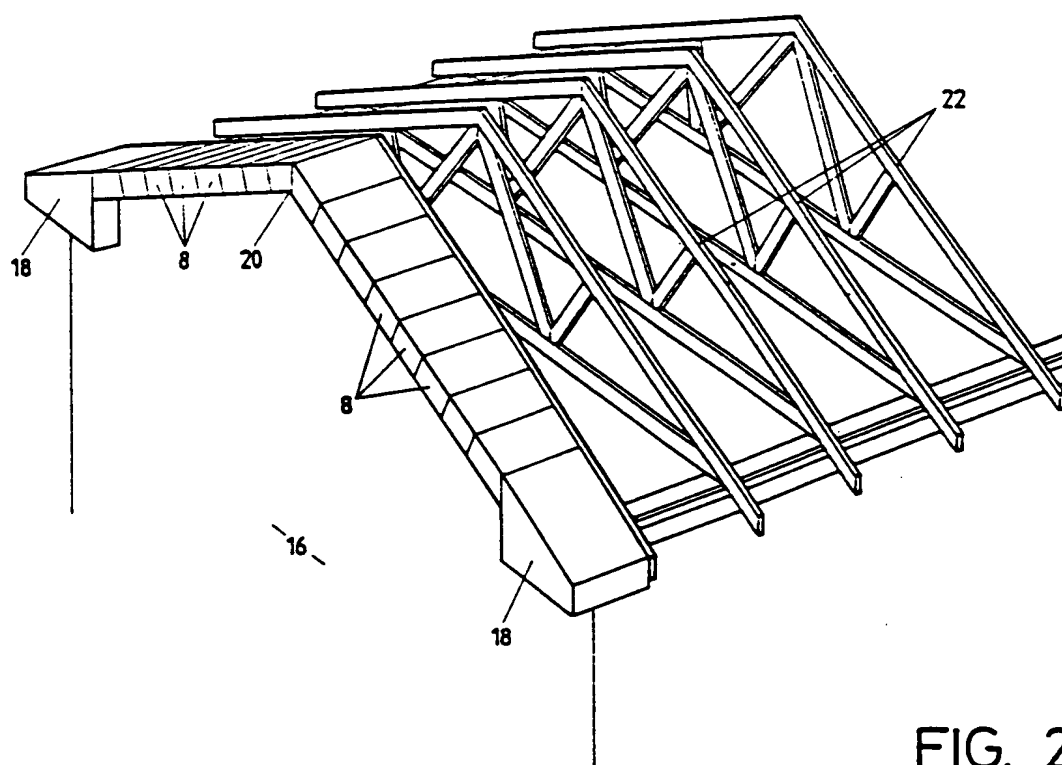


FIG. 2A

3/7

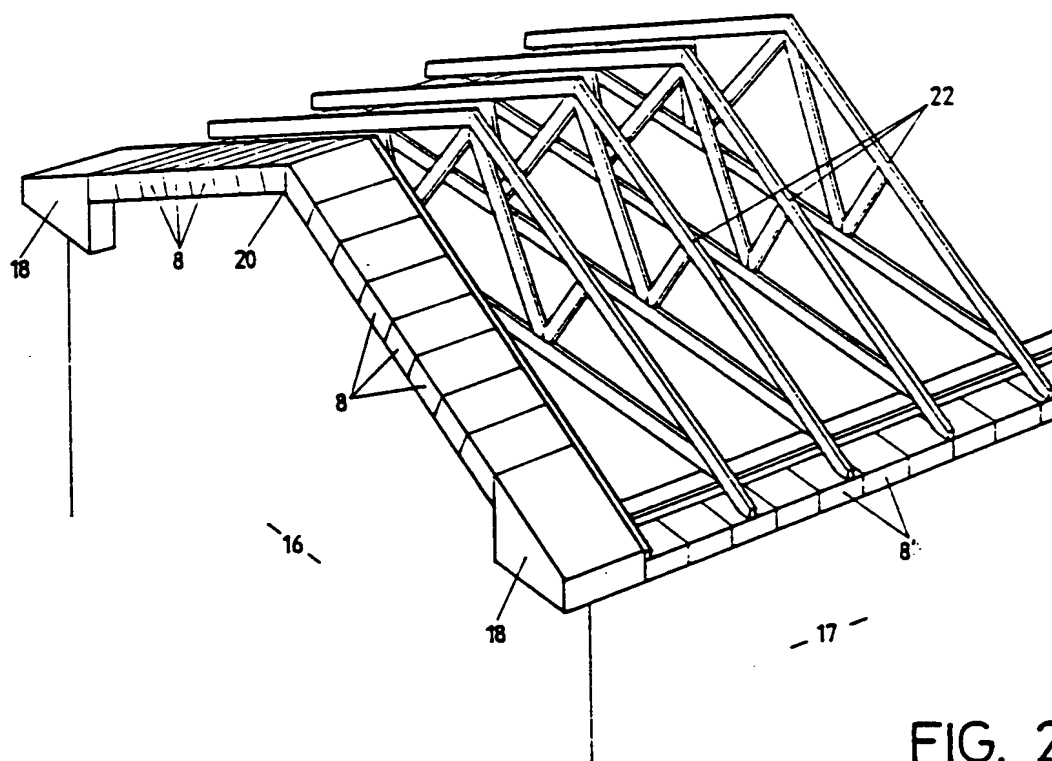
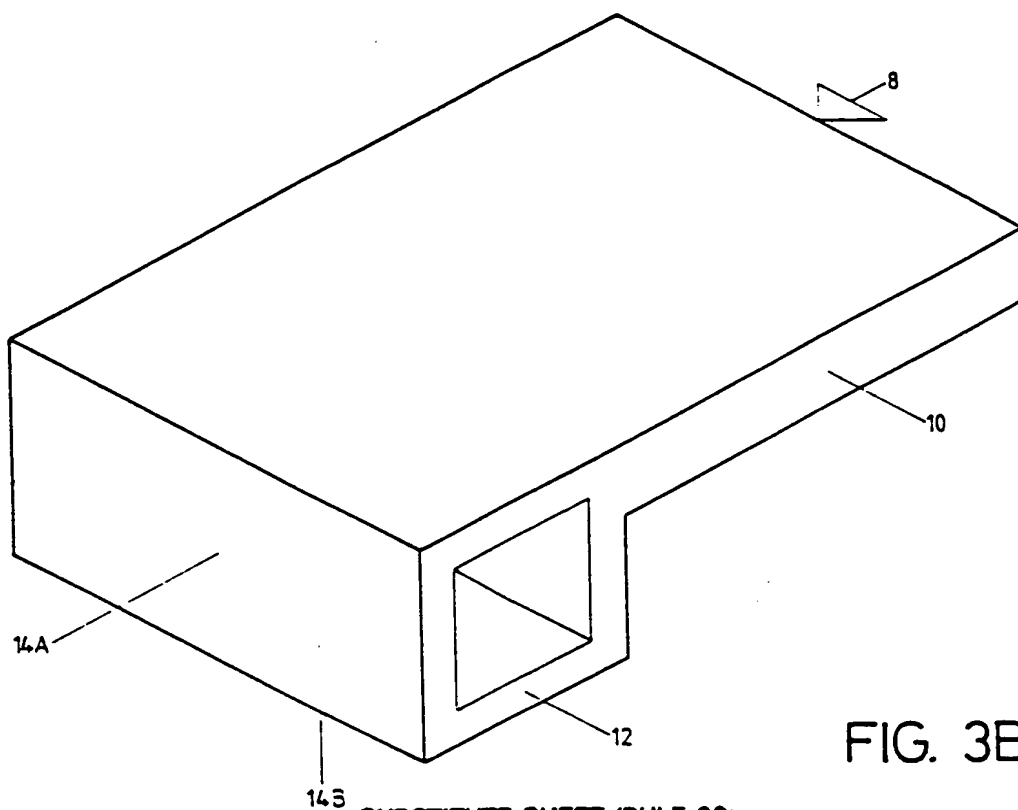
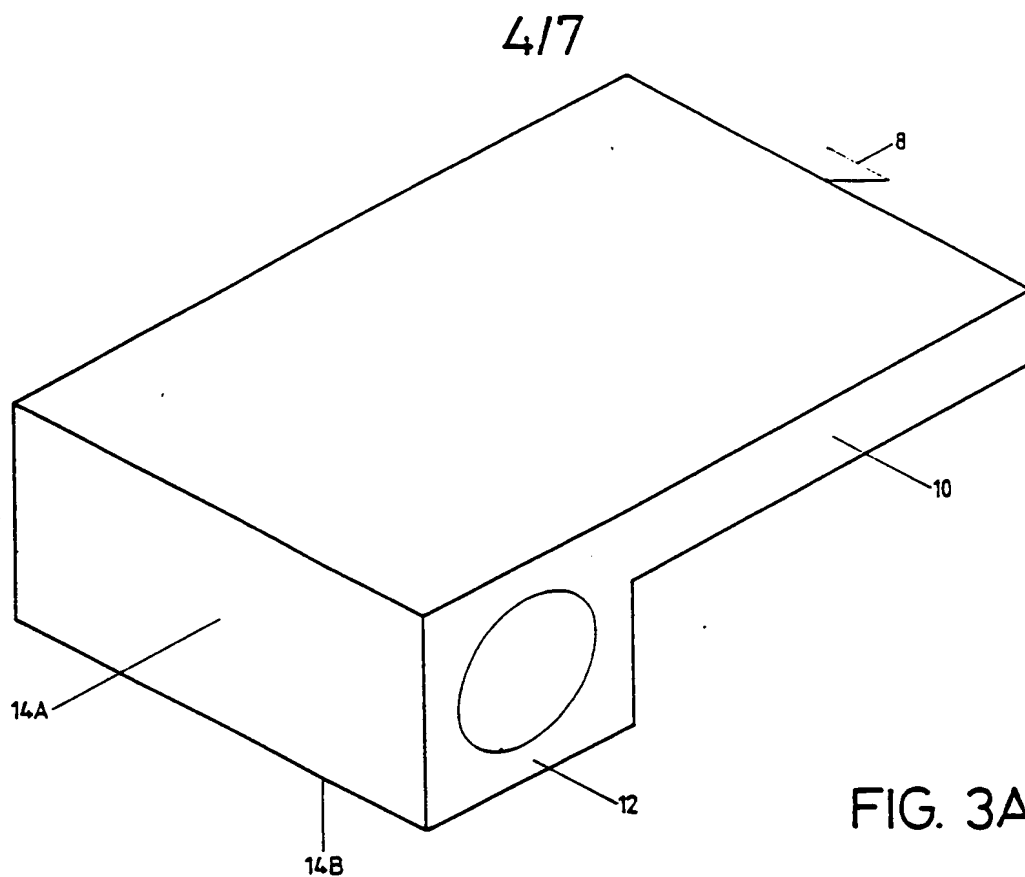


FIG. 2B



5/7

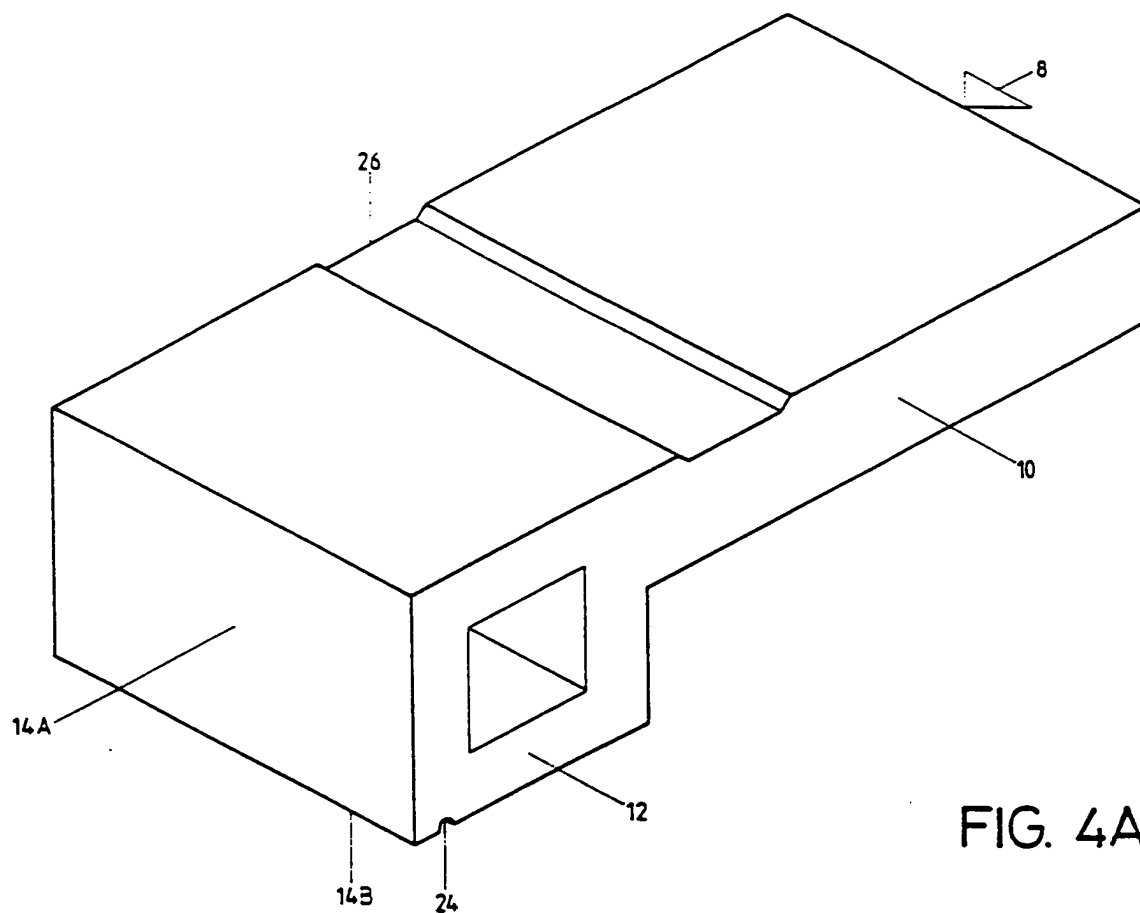


FIG. 4A

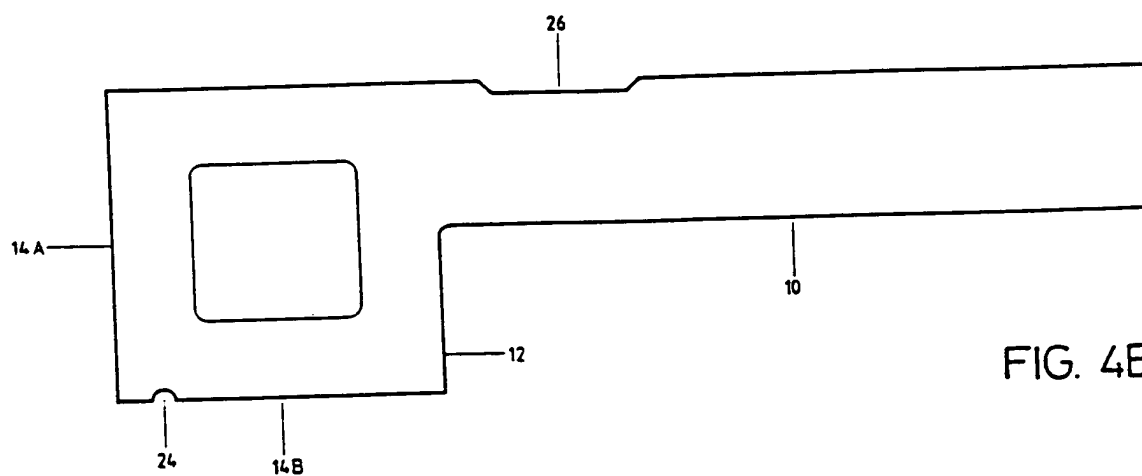


FIG. 4B

6/7

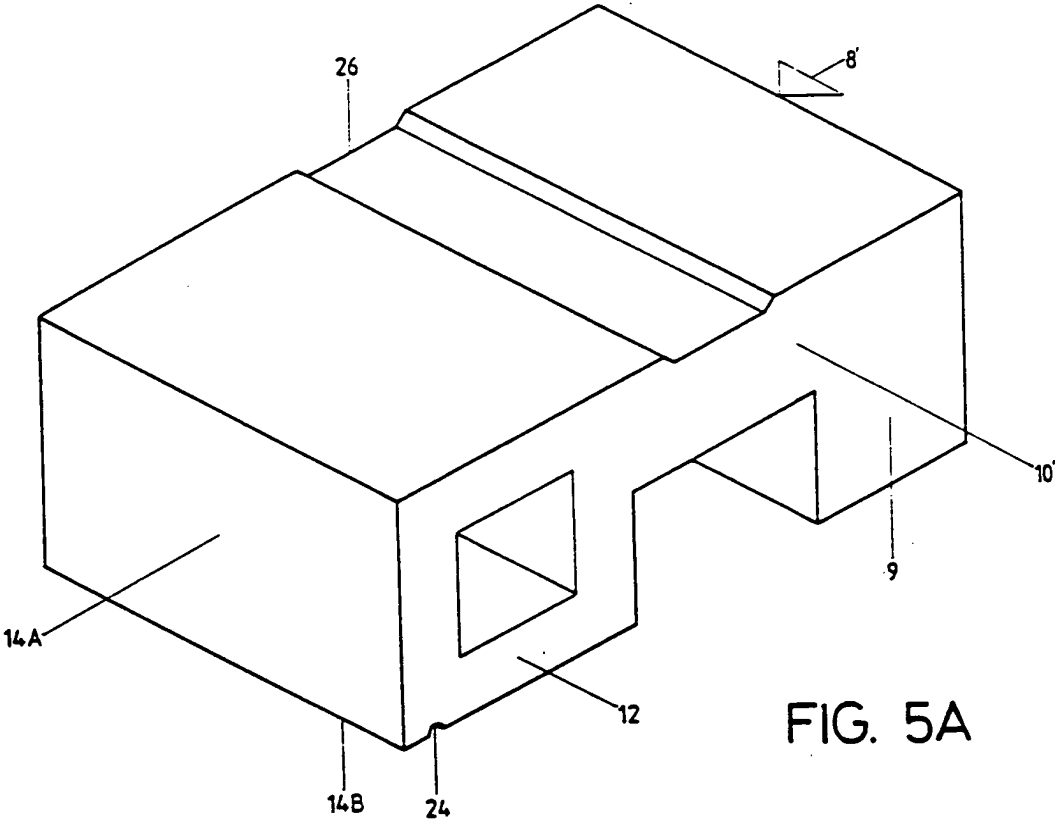


FIG. 5A

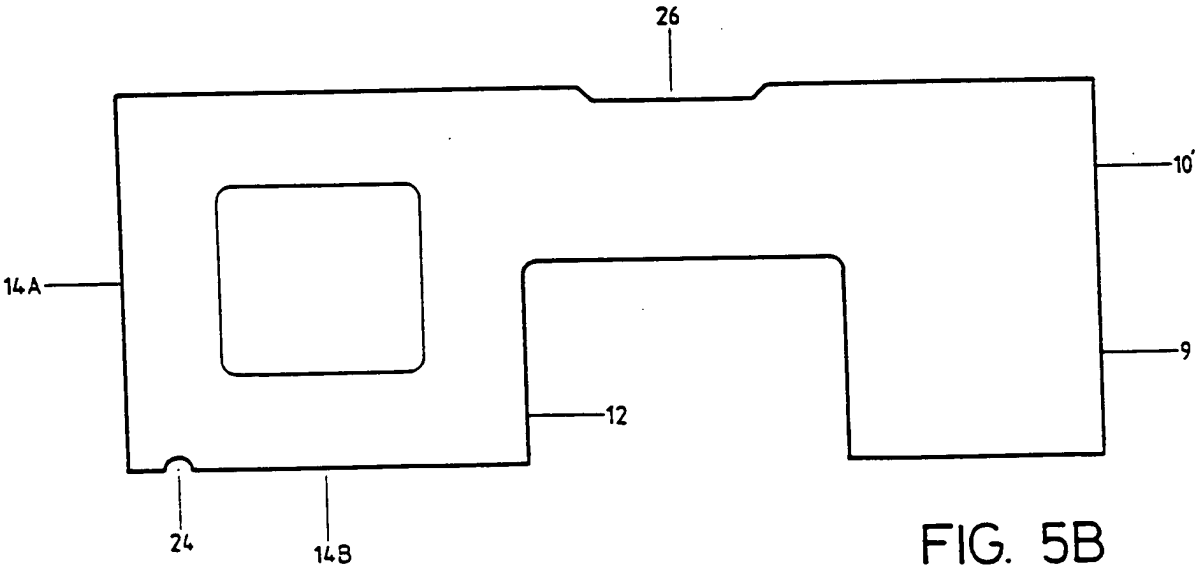


FIG. 5B

7/7

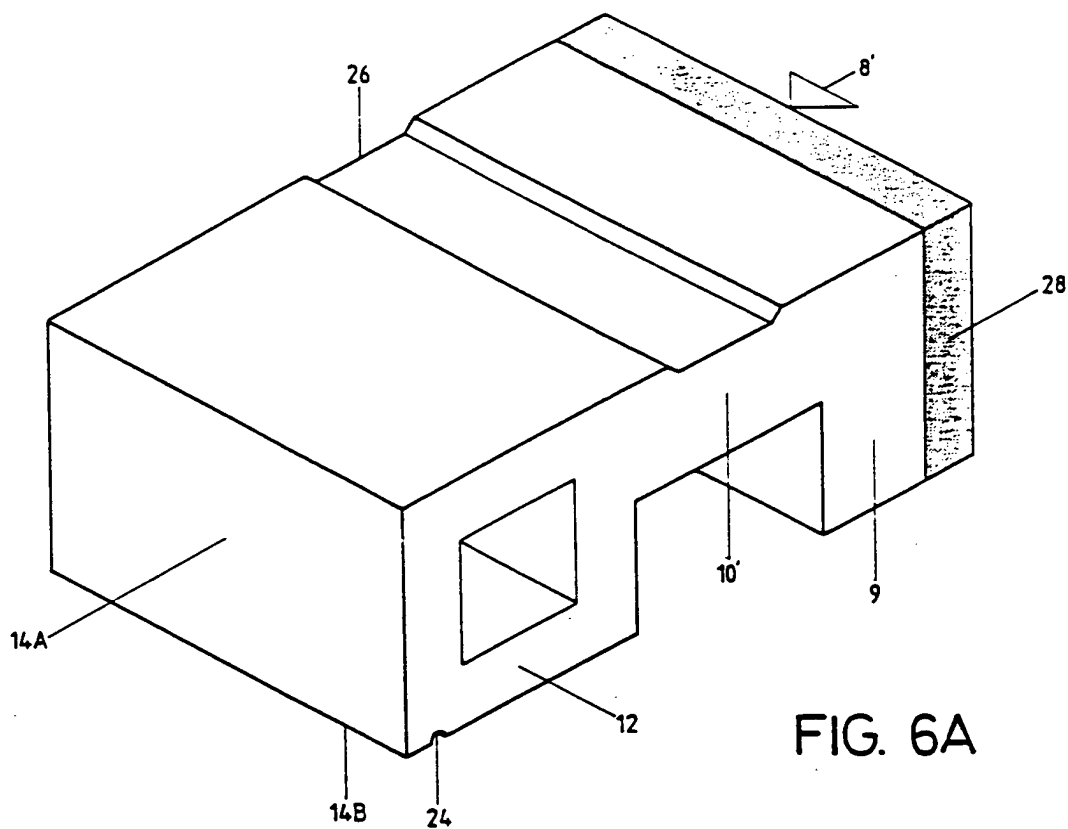


FIG. 6A

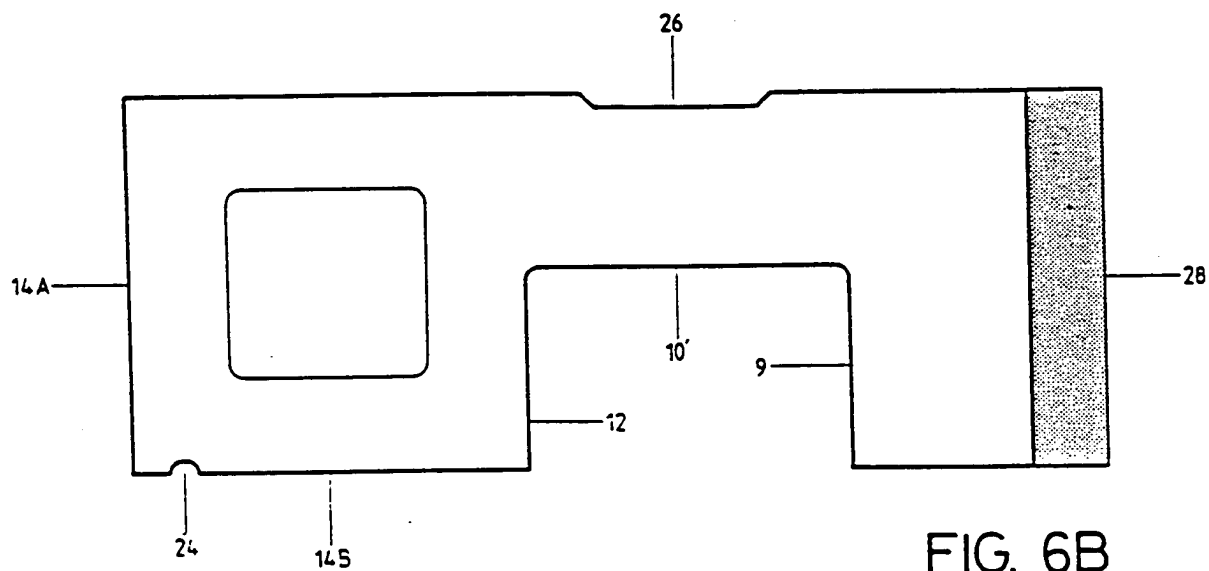


FIG. 6B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 National Application No
 PCT/GB 96/01124

 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 6 E04D13/15

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 6 E04D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	FR,A,2 654 137 (VALDEBOUZE) 10 May 1991 see abstract; figures ---	1-3,5-9, 12,13,16 14
X	EP,A,0 354 084 (SOPREFA) 7 February 1990 see the whole document; figures ---	1-3, 7-10,12, 16
X A	EP,A,0 356 297 (SAVERDUN TERRE CUIITE) 28 February 1990 see column 3, line 27 - line 56 see column 5, line 42 - line 62; figures --- -/-	1-4, 6-10,12, 14,16 11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 August 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

- 2. 09. 96

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Righetti, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X A	FR,A,1 140 555 (FIOCCHI) 29 July 1957 see the whole document ---	1-4,7-9, 14,16
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A	FR,A,2 698 394 (NUOVA SACELIT) 27 May 1994 see the whole document -----	15

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International Application No

PCT/GB 96/01124

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